(c) Under an existing scheme being operated by this Ministry, financial assistance to the extent of Rupees ten lakh per year (now increased to a maximum of Rupees fifteen lakh per year) is being provided to Administrative Training Institutes or other training institutes designated by the State Governments for operation of a Faculty of Disaster Management. At present, 28 training institutes and one university, namely, Tezpur University, Assam, designated by the State Governments in 28 States, are being provided financial assistance under the scheme.

The State Government of Bihar was requested that the Bhupendra Narayan Mandal University may also be taken into consideration while designating an institute in Bihar for creation of a faculty of disaster management. The State Government, however, decided to designate Administrative Training Institute, Bihar for receipt of financial assistance from the Government of India for establishment of a Centre for Disaster Mitigation and Natural Calamities.

In case of Maharashtra, an institute had already been designated by the State Government for receiving assistance from the Government of India for operation of a faculty of disaster management. The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, which required an assistance of Rupees fifteen crore for establishment of an Institute of Disaster Management, was informed that in view of the limited availability of funds under the scheme, it would not be possible for this Ministry to provide the financial support required by the University for setting up the proposed institute.

Indian citizenship to individuals from Pakistan

2397. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Competent Authority has initiated steps to confer Indian Citizenship to individuals from Pakistan, settled in India many decades ago, so as to avail Indian passport;

(b) if so, the details including steps taken so as to avail Indian citizenship and passport facilities to above individuals and number of individuals who are eligible to apply for Indian passport, State-wise as on today;

(c) whether steps will be taken so that similarly situated persons residing in Kerala will also avail above facility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Persons of Indian origin including Pak nationals, who apply for grant of Indian citizenship, are considered under the provisions of section 5(1)(a) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. No definite number of such applicants can be specified, as the applications have to go through different stages in the State/Central Government.

(c) The provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and the Rules made thereunder apply to the whole of India.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Illegal immigrants in the country

2398. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that illegal immigrants in the country have increased manifold during the last three years;

(b) if so, what are the total number of illegal immigrants staying in India as on 31st December, 2004;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter of illegal immigrants with other countries like, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka; and

(d) if so, the outcome therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The number of foreigners illegally staying in the last three years as on 31st December of the year, is as follows:

2001	39,843
2002	46,818
2003	46,587